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SUBJECT= MOFA STATEMENT CONCERNING HAIG VISIT AND THE -- PRESIDENT'S PRESS
CONFERENCE

REFERENCE= 81 TAIPEI 3139

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TAGS= PINT, OVIP, TW, (HAIG, ALEXANDER M JR)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

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Date: 12/5/96

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MR Cases Only:

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ACTION AIT-02

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TW
SUBJECT: MOFA STATEMENT CONCERNING HAIG VISIT AND THE
-- PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: TAIPEI 3139

1. ON JUNE 17, MOFA ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE GIVING "QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS" ON SECRETARY HAIG'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON ARMS SALES
TO THE PRC AND ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S COMMENTS ON TAIWAN AT
HIS WASHINGTON NEWS CONFERENCE AS EXPECTED (REFTEL). THE
TEXT OF THE MOFA RELEASE IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY ANSWERED
TWO QUESTIONS RAISED BY REPORTERS AS FOLLOWS:

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1. QUESTION:

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON WHAT PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN SAID

ABOUT THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON
JUNE 16 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.?

— ANSWER:

WE ARE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN REITERATED
HIS FIRM INTENTION TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE TAIWAN RELATIONS
ACT, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THIS IS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

2. QUESTION:

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS THAT U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE
ALEXANDER HAIG SAID TUESDAY NIGHT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE
IN PEIPING THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WOULD LOOSEN UP
THE RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES TO THE COMMUNIST CHINA, WILL
YOU MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THIS?

— ANSWER:

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THIS UNFORTUNATE DECISION,
BECAUSE IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEACE AND
STABILITY OF THE EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION. WE
SEE NO BENEFIT BUT HARM OUT OF THIS TO BOTH THE
UNITED STATES AND OTHER FREE NATIONS IN THIS REGION.
END TEXT.

THE SPOKESMAN'S ANSWERS WERE CARRIED BY ALL CHINESE AND
ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS.

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2. WHILE THE TONE OF THE ANSWERS IS STILL CALM, THE
HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR INDICATES CONSIDERABLE CONCERN,
WHICH HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE REMARKS OF THE BETTER
INFORMED PERSONS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN. IN ADDITION
TO THE CAUTIOUS MOFA ANSWER CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S
SUPPORT OF THE TRA, THERE IS A MORE UPBEAT REACTION FROM
GIO DIRECTOR JAMES SOONG, WHICH APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED
TO BE MORE REASSURING TO THE LOCAL POPULATION. THOMAS

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